

STORY 4.

THE HUMILITY OF A GREAT MUSLIM.

HUMILITY is the grace of a great character. He who is truly great is always humble. With all his greatness as the ruler of a great empire (Hazrat) Abu Baker was very humble and did not look upon any lawful work beneath his dignity. It was not unusual for people to see him tending his own goats and milking the sheep of his neighbours. When he was elected Caliph people thought he would not be able to find time from his onerous duties as the ruler of a disturbed state to take interest in their domestic affairs. A girl expressed to him her anxiety in this respect.

When (Hazrat) Abu Baker heard this he said. "By God, in spite of the heavy duties which I have to perform I will still continue to milk your goats for you. I hope that my duties as a ruler will not stand in the way of my serving my fellow-men." And to the end of his days he remained the same humble servant of the Muslims as he had been in the beginning.

STORY 5.

ALL FOR OTHERS
SELFLESSNESS EVEN IN DEATH.

THE following story illustrates how Islam had sharpened the moral faculties of its followers and raised their ethical standard so infinitely above that of any other people.

When (Hazrat) Abu Baker was on his death bed among other very valuable instructions which he gave to his heirs and friends one was this, that they should wash the very clothes which he was then wearing and consign him to the grave in the same.

His daughter Aesha said, "Dear father! These clothes which you are now wearing are old and worn out and are not fit for a winding sheet. Please allow us to buy a new piece of cloth so that you may have a decent burial."

But (Hazrat) Abu Baker said. "Dear daughter! The living have greater need of new clothes than the dead. These old clothes will do for me."

This beautiful remark of (Hazrat) Abu Baker deserves to be written in letters of gold, and is such that all rulers and rich people should bear it in mind.